

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Schick, 215-235-3405
jennifer@inliquid.org – www.inliquid.org

Images Available Upon Request-

InLiquid at the Bride presents
Clean Shirts and Dirty Business

Work by Libbie Soffer

January 17 – March 25, 2012

Presented in conjunction with



**Painted Bride Art Center Café
Gallery**

230 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA

First Friday receptions:

February 3 and March 2, 5 - 7 pm

Artist Talks during each reception at 6 pm



Libbie Soffer, *Clean Shirts and Dirty Business*, 2011, found men's shirts, and white, red and blue, 150" x 175" x 2"

(Philadelphia, January 2012) This winter, **InLiquid** presents *Clean Shirts and Dirty Business*, an installation of works by member artist Libbie Soffer at the Painted Bride Art Center Café Gallery. There will be an opening reception for the artist on **First Friday, February 3, 2012** from 5 to 7 pm, and an additional reception on **March 2, 2011** from 5 to 7 pm. The artist will give a talk at 6 pm during both receptions. This exhibition is presented in conjunction with FiberPhiladelphia.

This body of work has been an ongoing focus in recent years for Soffer, looking into the context behind the corporate job world and the struggles one must go through just to earn a decent living. More recently since our country's recession, Soffer's work has begun to speak against the unsecure job market, as Wall Street's profits soar and the unemployment figures also soared and now currently remain fairly steady. She speaks to the business world through her process, stripping away the "meat" of so many shirts, serves as a metaphoric flaying of the shirt owners' identity, substance and dignity. All that remains is the skeletal form, the linear allusion to former substance. Even stripped, the shirts' identities are apparent. The journey, shared by legions of solid citizens, has indeed an uncertain destination.

- MORE -

Libbie's art making begins with the distillation of the days' observations. The mixed media art, journalistic in nature, is reduced to a minimal concept. Her interest is the layers that build up with the manipulation of materials. Soffer's dialogue with the work is ongoing as the art takes on its own life. There's a control and surrender with the materials in a tight focus on what's happening with each step. Every mark takes on meaning.

She usually works in a series, a story. Soffer constructs her work preferring wood, clay, paper, fabric, wax, and relevant artifacts, like hair and old book pages. The resulting visuals frequently contain original manipulated text used as design element rather than text to be read.

Soffer's work traveled with *All the Symptoms of an Artist* to the Smithsonian and Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work is in many corporate and private collections including the collections of Edward Albee and Bristol Meyer Squibb. She exhibits in museums, universities, and galleries throughout the United States. She's a former member and past president of Nexus Foundation for Today's Art. She's a member of InLiquid and a current member of Philadelphia Sculptors. Soffer is represented by Kasten Gallery in Great Barrington, Mass.

FiberPhiladelphia is an international biennial and regional festival for innovative fiber/textile art. Exhibitions are planned for 40 locations including major institutions and independent venues taking place around the city in the winter and spring of 2012. Visit www.fiberphiladelphia.org for more information.

The public hours for the Painted Bride Café Gallery are noon to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, and until 7 pm on the First Friday of each month.

###

ABOUT INLIQUID

Founded in 1999, InLiquid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to expanding opportunities and exposure for visual artists while serving as a freely-accessible hub for arts information. By providing the public with immediate access to view the portfolios of over 270 artists via the internet, through "real world" activities and exhibitions in a variety of venues, and through an extensive online body of timely art information-----including gallery listings, articles, reviews, artist resources, links, and discussions-----InLiquid brings to light the richness of our region's art activity and broadens audiences for all forms of visual culture. **www.inliquid.org**